

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 014994 TOSEC 010061

53

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /021 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:P JOHNSON

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:P JOHNSON

----- 075151

P 211328Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014994 TOSEC 010061

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO ATHENS JAN 21, 1976

FROM BEIRUT

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0660

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS.

ALSO PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: POPP LEBANON REPORT

1.CITY OF DAMOUR FELL TO PALESTINIAN-LEFTIST FORCES
LAST NIGHT. REFUGEES FROM THERE AND CHAMOUN'S NEEIGHBORING
VILLAGE OF SAADIYAT, WHO REACHED JOUNIEH BY BOAT THIS
MORNING, APPEAR TO HAVE HAD A SOBERING EFFECT ON MANY
CHRISTIANS THERE WHO HAVE BEEN ENJOYING HEADY WINE OF
APPARENT PHALANGIST-CHAMOUN MILITARY SUCCESS CAPPED BY
YESTERDAY'S TAKEOVER OF QARANTINA DISTRICT. RIGHTIST
ATTACK ON NABAA DISTRICT DID NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE PLACE
AS MANY FEARED. STORIES OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN BEKAA
AND AKKAR AREAS UP COUNTRY AND PRESENCE THERE OF PLA AND OTHER
PALESTINIAN UNITS ALSO APPEAR TO BE SOBERING CHRISTIAN
RIGHTIST ENTHUSIASM. INFORMATION ON WHAT EXACTLY IS
HAPPENING UP COUNTRY IS, HOWEVER, SLIM, AS TELEPHONE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 014994 TOSEC 010061

TELEGRAPH LINES ARE FOR THE MOST PART OUT.

2. ARRIVAL OF KHADDA., SHEHABI AND JAMIL FROM DAMASCUS
THIS MORNING HAS RAISED OUR HOPES OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL
SOLUTION, OR AT LEAST SUFFICIENT POLITICAL PROGRESS TO
RESTAIN FURTHER MILITARY ESCALATION. WE HAVE RELIABLE
REPORTS THAT FRANGIE IS CONTINUING TO MEET WITH CHAMOUN,
GEMAYEL AND OTHER TOP CHRISTIAN LEADERS FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERA-
TION OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH SYRIANS, WHO ARE ACTING ON BEHALF
OF THE MOSLEM SIDE. WE ARE DISTURBED BY PRETTY RELIABLE
INFORMATION THAT AT LEAST CHAMOUN AND PROBABLY ALSO GEMAYEL
ARE STILL UNABLE TO SEIZE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION AND
ARE PUSHING FOR REFERRAL OF MATTER TO THE UN, WHERE U.S.
AND OTHER WESTERN FRIENDS OF THE LEBANON ARE SUPPOSED TO
PRODUCE NECESSARY SOLUTION TO LEBANESE PROBLEMS. WE ARE
DOING OUR BEST THROUGH A NUMBER OF INTIMATES OF THESE
LEADERS TO DISSUADE SUCH LINE OF THINKING AND SUPPORT
SYRIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND FRANGIE
IS AT PRESENT PREPARED TO ACCEPT. I HAVE NOT PERSONALLY WEIGHED IN
NOR INTEND TO UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD INSTRUCT,
IN WHICH CASE IT COULD BE DONE THROUGH A PERSONAL
OR TELEPHONE CALL WITH FRANGIE.

3. ALSO FOR FIRST TIME DATT HAS BEEN TOLD THERE ARE SERIOUS
DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF TOP MOSLEM ARMY OFFICERS AS TO
ARMY'S ABILITY TO HANG TOGETHER. RIGHTIST TAKEOVER OF
QARANTINA AND LEFTIST TAKEOVER OF DAMOUR, ACCOMPANIED
AS THESE WERE BY WIDESPREAD STORIES OF ATROCITIES,
SEEM TO BE HAVING PARTICULARLY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT IN
BRINGING HOME INTERCONFESSIONAL NATURE OF THIS CONFLICT.
AUB'S PRESIDENT KIRKWOOD WAS ON THE PHONE TELLING ME OF
SIMILAR FEARS AMONG FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT AUB
WHO SEE THIS AS BEGINNING OF CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM FRATRICIDE
BEYOND RIGHT-LEFT LINES THAT FIGHTING HAS GENERALLY BEEN
BELIEVED TO TAKE UP TO NOW. HAPPILY AUB STUDENT BODY
(WHICH IS ALMOST HALF OF ITS NORMAL LEVEL, OR ABOUT 2300
AT PRESENT) HAS NOT BEEN DIRECTLY HIT. LULLS IN FIGHTING
WHICH OCCURRED TOWARDS END OF DAY YESTERDAY ALWAYS
SEEM TO BRING OUT ROADBLOCKS, KIDNAPPING AND SUMMARY
EXECUTIONS ALONG PURELY CONFESSIONAL LINES, AND THIS
IS UNSETTLING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 014994 TOSEC 010061

4. ABOUT THE ONLY HAPPY NOTE TODAY, APART FROM OUR HOPES
FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS, IS FACT THAT SNIPER IN THE
HOLIDAY INN HAS CEASED TO SHOOT IN DIRECTION OF
EMBASSY. TANK BATTLE TOOK PLACE EARLIER THIS MORNING
IN THE HOTEL DISTRICT AS WELL AS MANY OTHER PARTS OF
TOWN, BUT AT THE MOMENT
ALSO SEEMS TO BE QUIETING

DOWN. WE SUSPECT THIS WILL BE ONLY TEMPORARY IN THE
ABSENCE OF POLITICAL PROGRESS IN BAABDA.
LAMBRAKIS UNQUOTE
SISCO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE014994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:P JOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760022-1066
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760136/aaaabgdj.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <29 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPP LEBANON REPORT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PORS, LE
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006